

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A ramp comprising:
at least one ramp surface for releasable engagement with a tab
characterized by a tab hardness;
a body molded from a compound formulation consisting essentially of:
a polymer; and
a liquid that is chemically incompatible with the polymer, the
liquid being in the form of droplets that are distributed in the polymer wherein
the liquid migrates to the ramp surface to form a layer of lubricant so that the
layer is kept at a substantially constant thickness and maintains an equilibrium
thickness of the liquid on the ramp surface.
2. (Original) The ramp of claim 1 wherein the polymer is characterized by a
polymer surface tension and wherein the liquid is further characterized by a
liquid surface tension that is lower than the polymer surface tension.
3. (Original) The ramp of claim 1 wherein the liquid is further characterized
by a viscosity that facilitates travel of the droplets in the polymer.
4. (Original) The ramp of claim 1 wherein the ramp surface further
comprises irregularities formed by the droplets traveling to the ramp surface.
5. (Original) The ramp of claim 1 wherein the compound formulation further
includes particles embedded in the polymer away from the ramp surface.
6. (Original) The ramp of claim 5 wherein the particles are present in the
compound formulation in a percentage required to provide the compound
formulation with hardness approximately the same as the tab hardness.

7. (Currently Amended) A disc drive comprising:
a read/write head configured to read from or write to the a disc;
a suspension supporting the read/write head;
a tab extending from the suspension, the tab being characterized by a tab hardness; and
a ramp adjacent the disc, comprising:
a ramp surface for releasable engagement with the at least one tab;
a body molded from a compound formulation consisting essentially of:
a polymer; and
a liquid that is chemically incompatible with the polymer, the liquid being in the form of droplets that are distributed in the polymer, wherein the liquid migrates to the ramp surface to form a layer of lubricant so that the layer is kept at a substantially constant thickness. ~~and maintains an equilibrium thickness of the liquid on the ramp surface.~~
8. (Original) The disc drive of claim 7 wherein the polymer is characterized by a polymer surface tension and wherein the liquid is further characterized by a liquid surface tension that is lower than the polymer surface tension.
9. (Original) The disc drive of claim 7 wherein the liquid is further characterized by a viscosity that facilitates travel of the droplets in the polymer.
10. (Original) The disc drive of claim 7 wherein the ramp surface further comprises irregularities formed by the droplets traveling to the ramp surface.
11. (Original) The disc drive of claim 7 wherein the compound formulation further includes particles embedded in the polymer away from the ramp surface.

12. (Original) The disc drive of claim 11 wherein the particles are present in the compound formulation in a percentage required to provide the compound formulation with a hardness approximately the same as the tab hardness.
13. (Currently Amended) A disc drive comprising:
at least one disc;
at least one read/write head; and
means for loading/unloading the at least one read/write head to the at least one disc utilizing a liquid lubricant; and
means for feeding the lubricant to the means for loading/unloading.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently Amended) The disc drive of claim ~~15~~13 wherein the ~~maintaining means for feeding the lubricant to the means for loading/unloading~~ comprises:
a body of polymer in which the lubricant is distributed, the polymer being chemically incompatible with the lubricant;
a polymer-air interface defining the body; and
a layer of lubricant at the polymer-air interface, the layer being replenished by lubricant migrating from within the body to the polymer-air interface so that the layer is kept at a substantially constant thickness.